

Beggar's Night Tips

October 31, 2005 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



In your neighborhood...

- Start out early before it gets dark.
- Watch for children along the roadways and walking off the curb between parked cars.
- Drive cautiously; children will be wearing dark clothing and or wearing masks which may hinder their site.
- Pay attention to your surrounding; help others keep an eye on their children.
- Walk from house to house on a sidewalk, not the street. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing towards the direction of traffic.

Before children start out on their "trick or treat" rounds, parents should...

- Have adults supervise children; children should not supervise one another.
- Your child should stay in their neighborhood and parents should know the route they will be walking.
- Instruct child to never enter anyone's home unless accompanied by a parent.
- Establish a return time. Be sure someone in the group has a watch.
- Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until it has been checked out by an adult.
- Pin a name tag inside a pocket or under costume.
- Be sure child is dressed appropriately for the outside night temperature.

Costumes...

- Be sure costume fits your child and is free of loose threads or hem lines to prevent tripping.
- Costume should be free of loose ties around the neck to prevent strangulation.
- Make sure your child can see out of their mask. Make-up is a great alternative.
- When buying special Halloween makeup, check for packages containing ingredients that are labeled "Made with U.S. Approved Color Additives," "Laboratory Tested," Meets Federal Standards for Cosmetics," or "Non-Toxic." Follow manufacturer's instruction for application.
- If masks are worn, they should have nose and mouth openings and large eye holes.
- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials. Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.
- Bags or sacks carried by youngsters should be light-colored or trimmed with retro-reflective tape if children are allowed out after dark.
- Carrying flashlights will help children see better and be seen more clearly.
- Make sure purchased costumes are labeled "flame resistant".
- Stay clear of candle-lit jack-o'-lanterns, especially when wearing flowing costumes.

Treats...

- Eat dinner before leaving.
- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection by an adult before anything is eaten.
- Wash fruit and slice into small pieces.
- When in doubt, throw it out.
- Report any suspected tampering of candy to the Gahanna Police Department.
- Be sure treat is appropriate for your child to prevent choking hazard and/or allergic reaction.

